

To: "Allen, Kara" [Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov]

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[Traffic Air Pollution Exposure During Infancy Harms The Lungs For Many Years \(Medical News Today\)](#)

[Disney Says No More Paper From Unsustainable Sources \(TreeHugger\)](#)

[Gulf oil sheen blamed on 2010 wreckage, not well \(Businessweek\)](#)

[Environmentalists blast 'pro-coal' Obama ad \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Majority back oil sands development if environmental impact limited: poll \(Globe and Mail\)](#)

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Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition
October 12, 2012

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Top news stories:

In VP debate, Ryan complains of 'green pork' and fact-checkers swat him down (Grist)

Thursday's feisty vice presidential debate included one exchange on energy, specifically clean-energy stimulus funding — and that one exchange included a number of distortions and lies, courtesy of one Congressman Paul Ryan.

Pay skyrockets at oil and gas firms (The Hill)

Pay increases in the mining, oil and gas exploration industries have fueled the biggest jump in overall U.S. wages since 2007, according to CNN Money.

Wyoming Water Tests in Line With EPA Finding on Fracking (Bloomberg)

Tests of drinking water near a natural-gas drilling site in Wyoming back up findings that established the first link by the federal government between hydraulic fracturing and tainted water, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

Oil-and-gas industry 'wary' of tax reform (The Hill)

A top lobby for the oil-and-gas industry said Thursday that its members had some concerns about a push to overhaul the tax code. Stephen Comstock of the American Petroleum Institute told reporters that, while the industry understood the value of a streamlined tax system, the group's members haven't pressed too hard for a simpler code.

Washington State Could Elect the Greenest Governor (Sustainable Business)

The environmental and cleantech community in Washington State is pulling out all the stops to get former SEEC Co-Chair Jay Inslee elected as Governor, calling it a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get a truly green candidate into high office.

Energy news:

For Lightweight Cars, a Race Among Steel, Aluminum and Carbon Fiber (New York Times)

Thanks to tough new federal fuel-efficiency rules, automakers must meet a fleet average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. More efficient engines and electric powertrains can't carry the whole load, so carmakers and the federal government are pouring resources into "lightweighting" auto platforms to meet the Corporate Average Fuel Economy, or CAFE, standards.

When Will US Offshore Wind Be Cost-Competitive? (Greentech Media)

The real question -- and it is being asked repeatedly at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Offshore WindPower 2012 conference -- is how soon and how cost-competitively that potential can be developed.

Sens. Cardin, Lugar slam oil industry's Dodd-Frank lawsuit (The Hill)

The bipartisan Senate duo that authored oil company disclosure requirements in the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial law are bashing petroleum industry litigation to scuttle the mandate.

Small Car Sales Soar As Gas Prices Rise (Green Car Reports)

It happens every time gas prices spike, and it's happening again: Small-car sales are soaring. In fact, the total of 2.1 million compact and subcompact cars sold over the nine-month period ending in September is up by fully 50 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

Shell Seeks to Export U.S. Oil (Wall Street Journal)

Royal Dutch Shell said late Thursday it has applied for a permit from the U.S. Department of Commerce to export crude oil in a sign of how a boom in U.S. oil production from shale rock is reshaping the country's role in the global energy marketplace.

How's that big carbon-capture push going? Slowly. Too slowly. (Washington Post)

A big new report from the Global CCS Institute takes stock of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects around the world as of 2012. And progress has been... rather slow.

Shale gas by the numbers (Fuel Fix)

Add another report to the growing number that say shale gas is an economic boon to the United States. A paper by a group of economic graduates from Yale University, published this month in Oil & Gas Investor, estimated that consumers saved \$100 billion a year in 2011.

Senior Republican knocks aid to Al Gore-backed green companies (The Hill)

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) is questioning Obama administration financial support for green energy companies in former Vice President Al Gore's portfolio, calling it part of a "disturbing pattern."

Japan utility agrees nuclear crisis was avoidable (Associated Press)

The utility behind Japan's nuclear disaster acknowledged for the first time Friday that it could have avoided the crisis.

Germany Plans Cap for Renewable Energy Subsidies (Businessweek)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government plans to cap renewable-energy subsidies when capacity reaches national targets as the administration seeks to cut the cost to consumers of its decision to phase out nuclear power.

Climate news:

Some Improvement, Some Deterioration for Drought in U.S. (Climate Central)

Despite a series of low-pressure systems that brought rain to the northern Great Plains, the Midwest, the Mid-Atlantic states, and Florida over the past week or so, the drought that has gripped the Lower 48 states since the spring (and even longer than that, in some areas) is still holding on, according to the latest update of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Arctic Sea Ice in Free Fall (TreeHugger)

The North Pole is losing its ice cap. Comparing recent melt seasons with historical records spanning more than 1,400 years shows summer Arctic sea ice in free fall. Many scientists believe that the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free in the summertime within the next decade or two, and some say that this could occur as early as 2016.

Panel: Extreme Weather Adds Urgency on Climate Policy (Climate Central)

The recent rash of extreme weather and climate events — droughts, heat waves, extreme precipitation — has provided a greater impetus for taking action to reduce planet warming greenhouse gas emissions. But a lack of political will and the complexities of the climate system pose enormous obstacles, according to international development and climate scientists who spoke at a Columbia University forum on Thursday.

Civil Rights and Climate Change (Courier-Journal)

When it comes to the process of understanding an issue through greater awareness, most of our perception change occurs only when a problem has been correctly identified and named. Usually we begin only with the memory of an event or a feeling which does not settle well within us, yet we often lack the words to describe why.

Speed of Ocean Acidification Concerns Scientists (Triple Pundit)

Speaking at the Third International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO₂ World late last month in Monterey, California, Dr Daniela Schmidt, a geologist from the University of Bristol, warned that current rates of ocean acidification are unparalleled in Earth history.

Forests to feel climate change effect—damage could cost billions (Phys.org)

A new pan-European study suggests that the economic value of forests will decline between 14 % and 50 % due to climate change. If measures are not taken to change this, the damage could reach several hundred billion euros, say researchers led by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) in Switzerland.

Researchers describe the “where” and “when” of life cycle emissions from gasoline (Green Car Congress)

Researchers from the University of Minnesota have produced a spatially and temporally explicit life cycle inventory (LCI) of air pollutants from gasoline, ethanol derived from corn grain, and ethanol from corn stover for the contiguous US (the lower 48 states).

Norway to double carbon tax on oil industry (Guardian)

Norway is to double carbon tax on its North Sea oil industry and set up a £1bn fund to help combat the damaging impacts of climate change in the developing world.

By 2020, Indonesian Palm Oil Plantations Will Release More CO₂ Than Canada (ThinkProgress)

Palm oil plantation expansion in Indonesia is set to release more than 558 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2020, according to a report published Sunday in Nature Climate Change. That's more than Canada's yearly CO₂ emissions.

Indians believe govt needs to tackle climate change: Study (Financial Express)

A Yale Foundation study has found that Indians understand and respond to the idea of climate change affecting their lives and their future prospects, and have faith in science to tackle it.

Environment & Health news:**New York Times Reporters Detained Covering Keystone XL Protests in East Texas (Sustainable Business)**

Joining the ranks Wednesday were two reporters covering the protests for The New York Times. Reporter Dan Frosch and an unnamed photographer accompanying him were covering a protest on private land yesterday when they were handcuffed and detained by a security guard for TransCanada (the Canadian company behind the pipeline) and local police.

Traffic Air Pollution Exposure During Infancy Harms The Lungs For Many Years (Medical News Today)

Babies who are exposed to ambient air traffic pollution are likely to have poorer lung function up to the age of eight, especially those who are sensitized to common allergens, researchers from the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, reported.

Disney Says No More Paper From Unsustainable Sources (TreeHugger)

Disney has seen the light on sustainable sourcing of paper, after two years of talks with the Rainforest Action Network, announcing today a new paper sourcing policy which aims to eliminate entirely paper sourced from High Conservation Value Areas, maximize use of recycled paper and Forest Stewardship Council certified non-recycled paper, and minimize the consumption of paper overall.

Gulf oil sheen blamed on 2010 wreckage, not well (Businessweek)

Federal scientists and BP say oil appears to have leaked last month from the drilling wreckage lying at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico near where a BP well blew out in 2010, causing the nation's worst offshore spill.

Environmentalists blast 'pro-coal' Obama ad (Washington Post)

An environmental group is calling on President Obama's campaign to take down a TV ad criticizing Republican challenger Mitt Romney for declaring years ago that a Massachusetts coal-fired power plant "kills people."

Majority back oil sands development if environmental impact limited: poll (Globe and Mail)

A majority of Canadians support oil sands development so long as continuous efforts are made to limit its environmental impact, says a new poll commissioned by a conservative think tank.

* indicates subscription required

These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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